Export of spices

*71. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of spices has gone down during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to boost the export of spices;

(d) what steps have been taken to help in the processing and packaging of spices which need improvement in order to compete in the international market;

(e) whether the prices of Indian spices are very high; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to make them competitive in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been some decline in export of Spices during 1990-91 as compared to 1989-90. Export figures for spices for last 3 years are given below:

Year	Qty (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1988-89	99946	274.80
1989-90	102170	275.76
1990-91	97291	238.66

SOURCE: Spices Board, Kochi.

(b) The decline in exports is due to a variety of reasons, including (i) a rise in domestic consumption (ii) high prices in domestic market that make our spices uncompetitive in international markets (iii) lower exports to Gulf countries due to war and (iv) lower productivity of major spices during 1990-91.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Spices Board to promote exports of Spices from India:—

(i) To popularise various brands of Indian spices and to project 'Indianness' and 'Quality', the Spices Board have launched 'Brand Promotion Scheme' and also awarding logo of the Board;

(ii) Sending delegations/Study teams to selected markets for market promotion;

(iii) Organising Buyer-Seller Meets in India for business Development;

(iv) Participating in selected International Food Fairs and exhibitions;

(v) Encouraging export of spices in value added forms such as Spice Oils and oleo-resins, curry powder, spices blends and mixes and also branded consumer packed spices;

(vi) Launching of Special Publicity Programme and publication of brocheures/booklets in foreign languages for market promotion;

(vii) Taking up development and research programmes for increasing productivity and production of spices; and

(viii) Organising Training|workshops|seminars for growers|processors and exporters for improvement of quality and also providing subsidy for establishing Quality up gradation laboratories.

(d) The following steps have been taken to help processing and packaging of Spices to meet international requirements:—

(i) Organising training to Growers|Exporters in different states regarding modern post harvest operations and to adopt modern processing techniques to prepare spices of international specifications;

(ii) Norms have been introduced on packaging for export of Spices and training is imparted to exporters on modern concepts of packaging;

(iii) Introduction of retail consumer packs for international markets; and

(iv) Conducting studies to streamline packaging standards requirements for Indian Spices under EEC Assistance.

(e) Prices of major Indian spices are comparatively high in the international markets.

(f) Various Developmental Schemmes are organised, in association with State Governments, Agricultural Universities etc. for increasing production and productivity of Spices and to create Export surpluses. The emphasis is being given for increasing production of pepper, ginger, turmeric and chillies which are important export oriented crops. There are programmes for supply of planting material through departmental and credit nurseries. The exchange rate adjustments and Exim Scripe scheme will also make our spices more competitive.

चुनावों पर होने वाले व्यय पर नियंत्रण

*72. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय** : क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चुनावों पर होने वाले बढ़ते हुए व्यय को नियंत्रित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ; और

(ख) लोक सभा और विधान सभा के प्रत्येक स्थान के लिए चुनाव कराने में इस समय अनुमानत: कितनी राशि व्यय होती है ?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री के० विजय भास्कर रेड्डी) : (क) भविष्य में होने वाले निर्वाचनों में, इलेक्ट्रानिक मतदान मशीनों का प्रयोग, निर्वाचन के आयोजन पर व्यय को कम करने के लिए एक व्यापक कदम होगा । लोक प्रतिनिधित्व (संशोधन) विधेयक, 1990 के जो राज्य सभा में विचाराधीन है, कुछ उपबंधों से भी निर्वाचनों पर होने वाले कुल व्यय में कमी होने की संभावना है ।

(ख) 1991 के साधारण निर्वाचन में हुए व्यय से संबंधित आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं और न ही 1989 के साधारण निर्वाचन के अंतिम आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं। उपलब्ध अनंतिम आंकड़ों के अनुसार, नवीं लोक सभा के 529 स्थानों के लिए साधारण निर्वाचन कराने में हुआ व्यय, 154.22 करोड़ रु० था जो प्रति स्थान के लिए लगभग 29 लाख रु० बनता है । राज्यों की विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचनों पर हुए व्ययों का वहन राज्य सरकारों द्वारा किया जाता है और ऐसे व्यय से संबंधित आंकड़े सरकार के पास उपलब्ध नहीं हैं । ये एकत्रित करके सदन के पटल पर रख दिए जाएंगे ।

Negotiations with USA on GATT and IPR

*73. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited USA to see his counterpart in connection with negotiations to be held on GATT, Intellectual Property Rights and similar subjects;

(b) whether any discussion had taken place there on the application of Pressler Law "301" to India being dropped; and

(c) whether his Ministry have drawn an alternate plan to encourage exports to USA and Europe in view of the protectionist policy of the developed countries?